Appendix B

1. (Amended five times) [A vaccine] An immunological composition comprising:

a physiologically acceptable non-toxic vehicle containing a purified non-proteolytic cysteine protease, which [confers immunity] produces an immune response in a mammal against Group A streptococcal infection, wherein said cysteine protease comprises at least one amino acid substitution and said amino acid substitution occurs at the amino acid position selected from the group consisting of Lys145, Gln185, Cys192, His340, Asn356 and Trp357.

4. (Amended three times) The [vaccine] immunological composition of claim 1, wherein said infection is selected from the group consisting of pharyngitis, tonsillitis, skin infections, acute rheumatic fever, scarlet fever, post-streptococcal glomerulonephritis, and toxic-shock-like syndrome.

5. (Amended three times) The [vaccine] immunological composition of claim 1 further comprising a purified streptococcal M protein antigen.

6. (Amended three times) A method of [immunizing] producing an immune response in mammals comprising:

administering to a mammal [a vaccine] an immunological composition comprising, a purified non-proteolytic cysteine in an amount sufficient to [confer immunity] produce an immune response to a Group A streptococcal infection, wherein said cysteine protease comprises at least one amino acid substitution and said amino acid substitution occurs at the amino acid position selected from the group consisting of Lys145, Gln185, Cys192, His340, Asn356 and Trp357.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said [vaccine] immunological composition is given by parenteral administration.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said [vaccine] immunological

composition is administered orally.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said [vaccine] immunological composition is administered in multiple doses.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said [vaccine] immunological composition is given by parenteral administration.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said [vaccine] immunological composition is administered orally.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said [vaccine] immunological composition is administered in multiple doses.

18. (Amended) The [vaccine] immunological composition of claim 1, where said mammal is human.

20. (Amended) The [vaccine] immunological composition of claim 1, wherein said amino acid substitution is selected from the group consisting of Lys145→ Ala145, Cys192→ Ala192, Cys192→ Ser192, His340→ Ala340, Gln185→ Ala185, Asn356→ Ala356 and Trp357→ Ala357.

22. (Amended) The [vaccine] immunological composition of claim 20, wherein said amino acid substitution is Cys192→ Ala192 or Cys192→ Ser192.

24. (Amended) The [vaccine] immunological composition of claim 1, wherein said amino acid substitution occurs at Lys145.

25. (Amended) The [vaccine] immunological composition of claim 1, wherein said amino acid substitution occurs at Cys192.

26. (Amended) The [vaccine] immunological composition of claim 1, wherein said amino acid substitution occurs at Gln185.

27. (Amended) The [vaccine] immunological composition of claim 1, wherein said amino acid substitution occurs at Asn356.

28. (Amended) The [vaccine] immunological composition of claim 1, wherein said amino acid substitution occurs at Trp357.

29. (Amended) The [vaccine] immunological composition of claim 1, wherein said amino acid substitution occurs at His340.

45. (Amended) [A vaccine] An immunological composition comprising a purified non-proteolytic cysteine protease, which [confers immunity] produces an immune response to a mammal against Group A streptococcal infection, wherein said cysteine protease comprises at least one amino acid substitution and said amino acid substitution occurs at the amino acid position selected from the group consisting of Lys145, Gln185, Cys192, His340, Asn356 and Trp357.

46. (Amended) A method of [immunizing] producing an immune response in mammals comprising

administering to a mammal [a vaccine] the immunological composition of claims 1,5, 20, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, or 44 in an amount sufficient to [confer immunity] produce an immune response to a Group A streptococcal infection.